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(cont)

the layer of semiconducting material, each divided zone being spaced apart on said first surface, and the semiconducting material of each of the divided zones being in intimate contact with the upper surface of said first and second electrode structures and in intimate contact with the first surface of said flexible support.

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~~32. (New) The passenger detector of claim 31 wherein said flexible support, on which both the electrode structures and semiconducting material are deposited, represents, in an integrated passenger detector arrangement, a sole contact and supporting sheet for the electrodes and semiconducting material.~~

33. (New) The passenger detector of claim 31 wherein said flexible support is a sheet of fabric.

34. (New) The passenger detector of claim 31 wherein said flexible support is a sheet of woven fabric.

35. (New) The passenger detector of claim 31 wherein said flexible support is a sheet of non-woven material comprising insulating fibers.

36. (New) The passenger detector of claim 31 wherein said semiconducting material comprises a semiconducting ink which is in intimate contact with the electrode structures and the first surface of said flexible support by way of a printing application.

37. (New) The passenger detector of claim 31 wherein said semiconducting material is a conducting elastomer deposited or stuck on to said electrode structures and the first surface of said flexible support.

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38. (New) The passenger detector of claim 31 wherein said semiconducting material is in intimate contact with said electrode structures so as to form a plurality of closed and sealed active sensor zones.

39. (New) The passenger detector of claim 31 wherein said electrode structures are printed on said flexible support.

40. (New) The passenger detector of claim 31 wherein said electrode structures are portions of a deposited metallic layer subjected to an engraving or etching process.

41. (New) The passenger detector of claim 31 wherein the semiconducting material is of a type which results in a decrease in resistance in an active zone of the detector upon compression of a portion of the semiconducting material covering an electrode structure in a dividing zone against a supporting surface of the electrode structure.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed commensurate with an RCE filing for the present case. A request is made in the RCE filing to enter the previously unentered amendment which accompanied the After Final Response of December 9, 2002. The Preliminary Amendment adds new independent claim 31 as well as dependent claims 32 to 41 depending directly or indirectly off from claim 31.

The Remarks presented in the December 9, 2002 are repeated herein. Also, in the Interview Summary Record there is reference to Figure 30 of Kikuo as showing electrodes Eo, EP with a layer of semiconducting material on top. Figure 30 is included in the group of Figures 29-32 in Kikuo concerning a tactile sensor for obtaining data for designing shoes. The unit sensor 10 of the shoe design tactile sensor comprises two electrodes arranged at a distance apart